

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 01576 200714Z

12

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FMC-01 COME-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 CG-00 L-02 COA-01 DLOS-03 SIL-01 LAB-04 /048 W

----- 107933

R 191505Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8039

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LUANDA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL DOUALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 1576

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EWWT, NI

SUBJ: LAGOS/APAPA PORT CONGESTION

REF: A. LAGOS 11488 (NOTAL)

B. LAGOS 10259 (NOTAL)

1. GENERAL MANAGER, NIGERIAN PORTS AUTHORITY INFORMS US THAT
NPA HAS CONCLUDED FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN-WEST AFRICAN
CONFERENCE LINES (AWACL) FOR PRIORITY BERTHING ARRANGEMENT
UNDER CONDITIONS DESCRIBED REFTEL. ESSENTIALLY THIS MEANS
THAT AWACL IS ASSIGNED ONE PRIORITY BERTH IN LAGOS/APAPA PORT,
WITH GUARANTEED MAXIMUM WAITING TIME OF SEVEN DAYS, IN RETURN
FOR UNDERTAKING NOT TO IMPOSE PORT DETENTION SURCHARGE. NPA
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 01576 200714Z

EVIDENTLY WELL PLEASED WITH COOPEARTIVE AND UNDERSTANDING

ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY AWACL OFFICIALS, CONTRASTING IT WITH THAT OF OTHER CONFERENCES, PARTICULARLY THE EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL WEST AFRICAN CONFERENCE (COWAC), WHICH GEN.MGR. DESCRIBED AS "INSENSITIVE."

2. COWAC, WHICH INCLUDES LINES BASED IN UK, GHANA, NIGERIA, NORWAY, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, HOLLAND, IVORY COAST, SWEDEN, DENMARK, POLAND, ESTONIA, AND EAST GERMANY, WAS FIRST CONFERENCE TO APPLY SURCHARGE EARLY LAST FALL, AND CONTINUES TO APPLY IT AT LEVEL OF 30 PERCENT. IN ADDITION, WE GATHER THAT JAPAN WEST AFRICA CONFERENCE (JWAC) HAS SURCHARGE IN 20-25 PERCENT RANGE.

3. ON OTHER HAND, UK-WEST AFRICA JOINT SERVICE (UKWAL) HAS HAD PRIORITY BERTHING ARRANGEMENT FOR MANY MONTHS, AND HAS JUST CONCLUDED AGREEMENT WITH NPA FOR SECOND PRIORITY BERTH IN RETURN FOR CONTINUING TO REFRAIN FROM APPLYING PORT SURCHARGE. UKWAL, OF COURSE, HAS SUBSTANTIALLY GREATER TRAFFIC TO NIGERIA THAN EITHER AWACL OR COWAC.

4. MEANWHILE, OFFICIAL DELAY TIME FOR SHIPS WAITING TO BERTH IN NIGERIAN HARBORS AS OF FEB. 18, WERE AS FOLLOWS:
APAPA IMPORT -- 85-90 DAYS; APAPA EXPORT -- 5-10 DAYS;
LAGOS CUSTOMS QUAY -- 25-30 DAYS; APAPA LIGHTER -- 15-20 DAYS;
PORT HARCOURT (GENERAL CARGO) -- 10-12 DAYS; PORT HARCOURT (CEMENT) -- 15-20 DAYS. NPA GEN.MGR. STILL OPTIMISTIC THAT THESE FIGURES WILL SOON BEGIN TO FALL TO MORE REASONABLE LEVEL. HE BLAMES CONTINUAL INCREASE OF DELAY PERIODS TO DATE NOT ONLY ON STEADY INCREASE IN VOLUME OF TRAFFIC (WHICH NOT LIKELY TO LET UP); BUT ALSO ON NATIONWIDE LABOR DISRUPTIONS IN RECENT WEEKS TO WHICH PORT OPERATIONS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE. WITH GRADUAL EASING OF LABOR PROBLEMS OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS, HE EXPECTS (EQUALLY GRADUAL) RETURN TO "NORMAL" IN PORTS.

5. EMBASSY'S OWN BEST ESTIMATE REMAINS AS STATED IN REF (B): THAT PRESENT CONGESTION WILL EVENTUALLY RETURN TO NEAR NORMAL LEVELS (POSSIBLY NOT UNTIL AFTER NOV. 1975 BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL), E.G. 4-5 DAYS WAITING TIME FOR IMPORTS; THAT RECURRING CRISES OF CONGESTION, DUE TO MASSIVE INCREASE IN VOLUME OF IMPORTS, WILL NEVERTHELESS BE FEATURE OF LIFE IN NIGERIAN PORTS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LAGOS 01576 200714Z

FORESEEABLE FUTURE; AND THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE UNTIL (A) NIGERIA'S OIL BOOM WINDS DOWN, OR (B) MAJOR EXPANSION OF PORT FACILITIES--E.G. REOPENING OF BADAGRY PORT--IS UNDERTAKEN.
REINHARDT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAGOS01576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750060-0371
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750232/aaaabcrq.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LAGOS 11488
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAGOS/APAPA PORT CONGESTION
TAGS: BEXP, EWWT, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006